

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, starting at page 4, numbered paragraph 4, claims 1-6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Beniyama et al. US 6,799,314 (hereinafter Beniyama). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 each recite "flow definition information which defines a process for controlling a work flow" (e.g. claim 1, lines 3-4). As discussed during the Examiner Interview conducted on January 2, 2008, Beniyama disclosed in FIG. 6 status information (e.g. "completed", "ready" or "Initial" in Status 0604 column) that is merely indicative of progress with respect to execution. The status information taught by Beniyama does not teach or suggest work flow control and does not define a "process for controlling a work flow" as recited in claims 1-3, 8 and 9. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over Beniyama.

Claim 4 recites "reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a predetermined number of hierarchical levels, on each of which an approver gives approval to a form" at lines 3-4. In contrast, as discussed with the Examiner during the January 2 Interview, Beniyama merely illustrates multiple entries for the same program in FIG. 11 but does not explicitly describe more than one level of approval. Thus, Beniyama does not teach or suggest "a predetermined number of hierarchical levels, on each of which an approver gives approval to a form" as recited in claim 4 and it is submitted that claim 4 is patentably distinguishable over Beniyama.

Claim 6 recites "reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a status of presence of withdrawal of a form forwarded in a work flow of a form process or withdrawal of a form forwarded in a work flow of a form process" at lines 3-5 and

generating a screen program for displaying a screen, which includes a button for withdrawing a form, if the read flow definition information indicates the status of presence of withdrawal, and
generating a screen program for displaying a screen, which includes a button for withdrawing a form, if the flow definition information indicates the status of absence of withdrawal

in the last five lines. In contrast, as discussed with the Examiner during the January 2 Interview, nothing has been cited in the Office Action that teaches or suggests "flow definition information which defines a status of presence of withdrawal of a form forwarded in a work flow of a form

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process or withdrawal of a form forwarded in a work flow of a form process" as recited in claim 6. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 6 is patentably distinguishable over Beniyama.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

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